

15 January, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing because I fear that further litigious action against Microsoft is a mistake. The technology industry has suffered because the suit has dragged out, and I believe the Justice Department has been tied up unnecessarily for too long. Microsoft and the Department of Justice have reached a satisfactory agreement, and I do not see the need for further litigation.

The settlement satisfies the requirements of antitrust laws without being too harsh on Microsoft or taking the complaints of its competitors too lightly. Microsoft will essentially facilitate the efforts of its technological competitors in gaining a more secure foothold in the market by allowing them access to protocols, interfaces, and line code integral to the Windows operating system, and also by reformatting later versions of Windows to support non-Microsoft software.

I do not believe that further litigation will accomplish anything. In fact, it may be detrimental to the economy, the consumer, and the IT industry. I support the settlement, and urge you and your office not to bring further suit against Microsoft.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. K. Washburne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

W. K. Washburne
1580 Harbour Club Drive
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082